

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059781

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: BUDAPEST GOOD-BYES

REF: BUDAPEST 720, 391

1. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE INTRIGUED BY THE REACTION OF KADAR TO THE EMBASSY'S ESSAY, "DOES HUNGARY HAVE A FOREIGN POLICY?" BUT WE THINK THERE ARE SOUND REASONS WHY WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO DO THIS.

A. WE HAVE BASIC RESERVATIONS ABOUT SHOWING AN EMBASSY'S POLITICAL REPORTING TO HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, DOUBLY SO IN COMMUNIST COUNTRY.

B. IF YOU WERE TO PRESENT THE PAPER TO KADAR, IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE PUT ASIDE FOR FUTURE READING AND ITS CONTENTS WOULD NOT BE A SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION
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DURING THE CALL.

C. WHATEVER THE QUALIFICATIONS YOU MAY STATE TO KADAR REGARDING THE PAPER, HE WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER IT AN OFFICIALLY APPROVED DOCUMENT HANDED OVER UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM AN APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL IN WASHINGTON.

D. OUR RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY AND OUR PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH KADAR ARE NOT SO DEVELOPED THAT WE CAN BE CONFIDENT OF AVOIDING ANY MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR PURPOSE AND MOTIVATIONS IN PASSING OVER THE DOCUMENT AT THIS STAGE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.

2. IF YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PAY A FAREWELL CALL ON KADAR, WE BELIEVE IT IS MORE PRUDENT TO FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF YOUR PREVIOUS MEETING WITH KADAR, WHICH YIELDED VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO HIS THINKING. YOU WILL, NO DOUBT, WISH TO EXPRESS YOUR SATISFACTION AT HAVING BEEN AMBASSADOR DURING A PERIOD OF IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. YOU WILL ALSO WISH TO ASSURE KADAR OF OUR CONTINUING DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS. YOUR CONVERSATION WITH PUJA MAY SUGGEST SPECIFIC AREAS FOR DISCUSSION.

3. WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK WITH INSTANCES IN WHICH HUNGARIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES INTRUDE ON OUR RELATIONS, APPARENTLY WITHOUT BEING CONTESTED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (READ FOREIGN OFFICE OR PARTY OFFICIALS). THIS IS HARDLY NOVEL PHENOMENON IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BUT IN CURRENT PERIOD IT SEEMS MORE PRONOUNCED IN HUNGARY AND SOMEWHAT INCONGRUOUS WITH HUNGARY'S AVOWED DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. WOULD YOU THINK IT FEASIBLE TO GET ACROSS TO KADAR THAT WE VIEW THIS SITUATION AS INCONSISTENT WITH NORMALIZATION.

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